The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

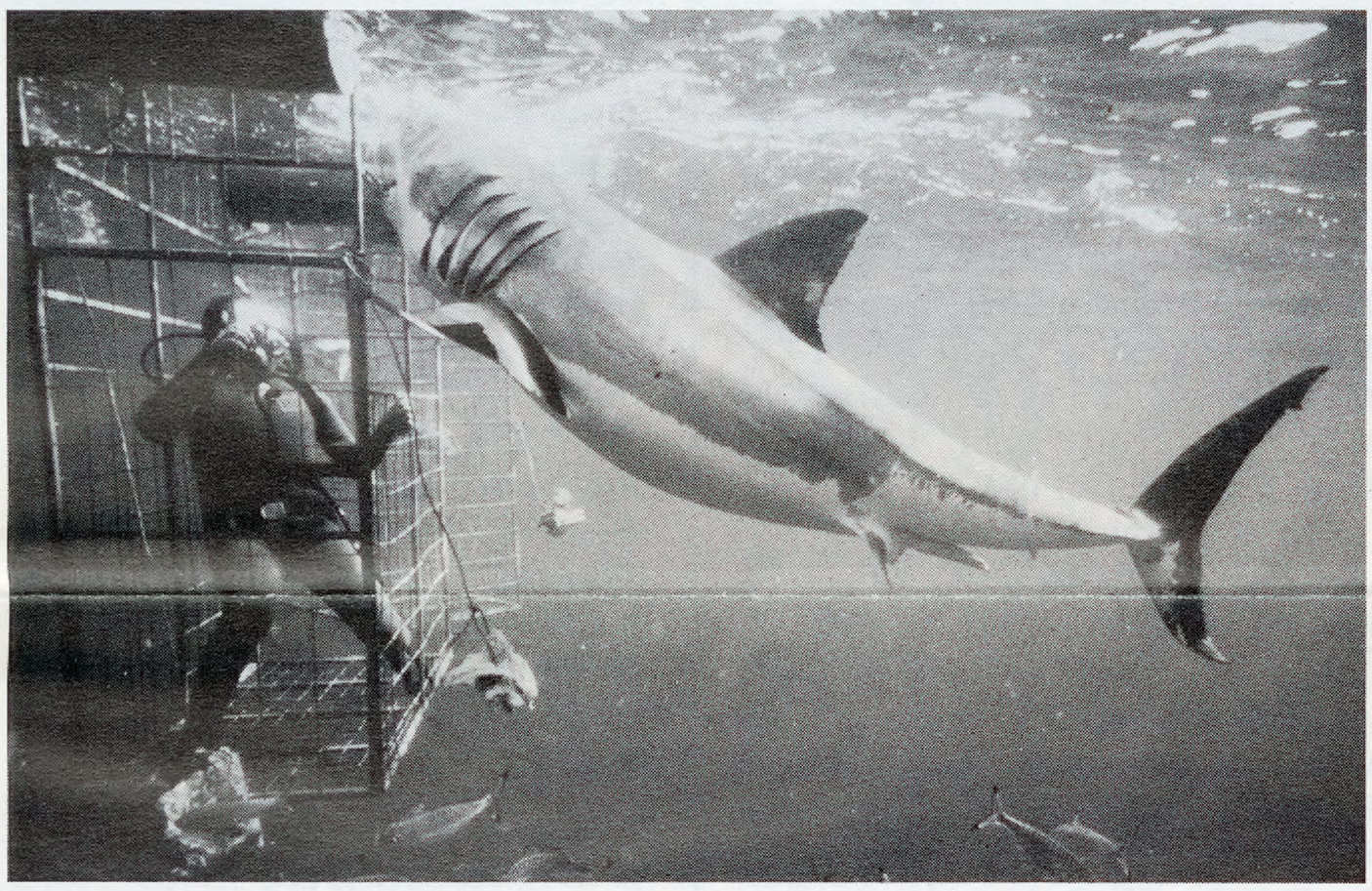
California Academy of Sciences

December 1991

Members' Meetings

White Sharks: Myths and Maneaters

December 11, 2 & 7:30 pm December 12, 7:30 pm



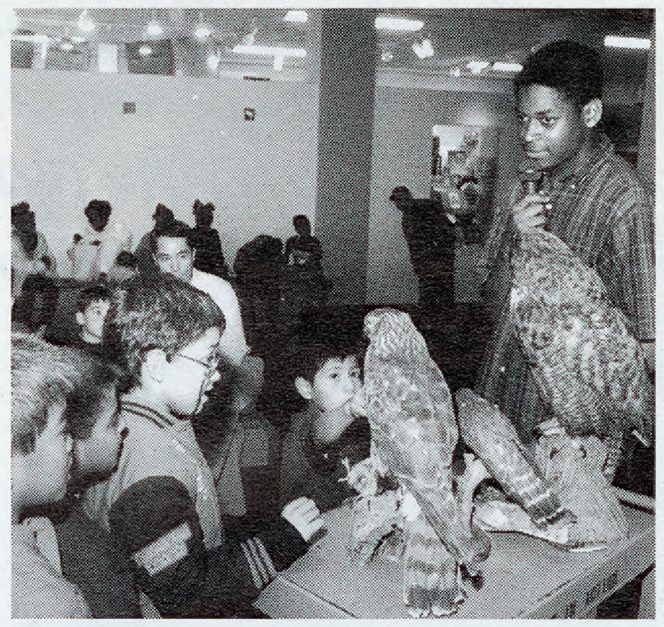
On December 11th and 12th, Dr. John E. McCosker will present a slide-illustrated lecture about Great White Sharks. Dr. McCosker has spent the last two decades studying this, perhaps the most feared creature of the sea, and the myths and realities surrounding sharks in general.

Dr. McCosker, photographer Al Giddings, and shark attack survivor Rodney Fox have made several expeditions to Dangerous Reef, south Australia, providing them an opportunity to film and observe white shark behavior from the safety of a cage and to perform experiments with mannequins representing potential human attack victims.

McCosker's research along the California coast and off Guadalupe Island, Mexico, has focused on shark attacks upon the shark's favorite prey, elephant seals. His research, combined with discoveries made by Point Reyes Bird Observatory scientists at the Farallon Islands, has led to theories concerning the local increase in white sharks, the bite-and-spit attack behavior, and diver and surfer safety measures. For example, are California and Oregon waters becoming more dangerous? Are swimmers, divers, or surfers at greatest risk? Are kayackers safe in bay and coastal waters? And, advice to anyone who finds themselves in shark-infested locations, other than on Montgomery Street, will be profferred.

Great White Shark, written by McCosker and Richard Ellis, with Al Giddings' photographs, will be available for signing before and after the lecture.

Science in Action Interns



Caroline Kopp, c. 1991 CAS

Science in Action intern Eric Milton.

We learn by doing. We learn by teaching. These are the most effective ways of gaining lasting knowledge, and this has proven very effective in one of the Academy's newest programs. The Science in Action Intern program brings high school students together to learn about the natural sciences and then to teach other youngsters about this amazing world.

This summer, sixteen high school youths were selected to participate in this new, on-going program. After training with Jerry Kay and Bonnie Woods of the Science in Action team, they met with Academy scientists to learn more about the natural sciences and develop their programs. The interns then taught their programs to elementary students in eleven different schools as well as doing presentations at the Science in Action booth. They spoke to more than 3,000 people in total!

These peer models help to alter the myths for children about who scientists are and what they look like. This extraordinary program was funded through a grant from the Pacific Telesis Foundation.

Members' Winter Festival

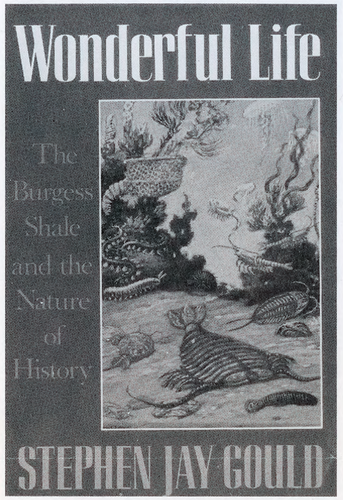
Monday, December 2
6-9 pm

Lecture

The California Academy of Sciences and the California Institute of Integral Studies present:

Stephen Jay Gould and "The Improbable Nature of Life's History"

Wednesday, Jan. 15 Reception, 6–7:30 pm Lecture, 7:30 pm



One of our country's most significant biologists, Stephen Jay Gould has become a mainstay in American culture through the intriguing and challenging view of life presented in his enduring series of essays that began 18 years ago in *Natural History* Magazine.

On Wednesday, January 15th, in Morrison Auditorium, you can experience the brilliant and keen mind of Stephen Jay Gould in an intimate setting. Featuring reflections on The Burgess Shale, Dr. Gould will speak about the role of extinction, survival and development of life's history.

"The modern order is largely a product of contingency...Replay the tape a million times from a Burgess beginning, and I doubt that anything like *Homo sapiens* would ever evolve again. It is, indeed, a wonderful life."

The Academy is proud to offer this opportunity to hear this popular scientist in our 400-seat auditorium. Tickets for the lecture are $30 members/$35 non-members. Tickets for the reception and lecture are $55 members/$65 non-members. Please use the coupon below to order your tickets. Call 750-7128 for more lecture information.

Ticket Order Form

Stephen Jay Gould — January 15

Lecture only: _____ $30 members _____ $35 non-members

Lecture & Reception:
_____ $55 members _____ $65 non-members

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

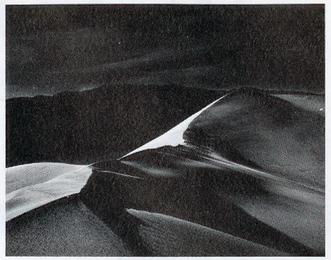
Visa or Mastercard # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Send Check or Charge information and signature and SASE to:
Special Lectures
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

Adult Education



© 1991 Stephen Johnson

Dunes in Death Valley

Winter Light in Death Valley: A Photography Workshop
January transforms Death Valley from a searing 120 degree desert into a mild 65 degree expanse filled with intriguing land forms, delicate flora and strange mineral deposits, all bathed in a soft winter light. A full agenda is planned for this workshop from inspirational dawn to glorious dusk.
Pre-trip meeting: Dec. 16, 7-10 pm
Field trip: Jan. 28-February 1
Post-trip meeting: Mar. 3, 7-10 pm
Cost: $275 members/$300 non-members (Includes campground fees and instruction; does not include transportation. Lodging also available.)

Lost and Found Basket: A Recycled Art Work
In every closet and garage lies a wealth of stuff that's being saved for one thing or another...maybe a recycled basket. With a little imagination and a few techniques these things can be woven into a wonderful basket.
January 25, 10–4 pm
Cost: $45 mem./$55 non-mem.

Particle Physics and the Origin of the Universe
In the last 20 years, physicists have learned much about the behavior of the elementary particles that make up matter. We'll do a quick survey of both elementary particle physics and theories of the origin of the universe, and discuss how the universe may have expanded much faster than previously thought.
Jan. 16-Feb. 20
(Thursdays), 7-9 pm
Cost: $80 mem./$90 non-mem.
Call 750-7098 for information.

Special Program

The Circle of Life — Ceremonial Arts Program

Every human society has developed rites of passage to facilitate its members' transition from one phase of life to another. Profound rituals mark the stages from birth and childhood, initiation and adolescence, marriage and adulthood, to death and remembrance.

The powerful exhibit, *The Circle of Life: Rituals from the Human Family Album,* celebrates these fascinating rituals with striking photographic presentations. Adjacent to the exhibit, folk artists from various cultures will demonstrate and display crafts that have a ritual or ceremonial function.

Through December 24th, Carmen Carrillo will demonstrate Mexican paper flowers used in connection with *El Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead). Mrs. Carrillo will be in Cowell Hall, Wednesdays through Sundays from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. She will be joined on Saturdays by Javier Sandoval demonstrating a variety of Mexican paper crafts, including masks and *papel picado* (paper cut-out) skulls and skeletons. For his final program on December 21st, Javier will install a typical home altar honoring deceased family members and will prepare offerings. This will include a tortilla demonstration and tamale samplings. Among the supporters of these programs and the exhibit are the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation Endowment; Kaiser Permanente Foundation; the RCM Capital Management Charitable Fund; and Hitachi America, Ltd.

Traditional Arts

Unidos de Santa Cruz

You can discover the traditions of distant lands through the Academy's Traditional Arts Programs. Held on Saturdays at 1 pm in Wattis Hall of Human Cultures or Morrison Auditorium, these programs are free after general admission and are made possible through the generosity of the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation.

December 7 — Unidos de Santa Cruz, a Brazilian *bateria* or marching percussion band, and vocalist Ivson Lins perform music and songs typical of the carnival parades and *escolas de samba* (samba schools) of Rio de Janeiro and Bahia.

December 14 — Using a combination of handpuppets and masked actors, Mascaritas Puppet Theater presents two plays — a contemporary adaption of "The Selfish Giant," and "Madam Scrooga," based on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Tale."

Young Audiences

Sunday, Dec. 15, 1 pm

One Sunday each month in the Academy's Morrison Auditorium, Young Audiences presents a wonderful series of performing arts programs for children. This month enjoy solo modern dancer Deborah Lewis. Utilizing ingenious props and costumes and a unique comic flair, Deborah Lewis evokes wonder and laughter as she explores the mysteries and ironies of nature and the world around us.

Artist-in-Residence

Canoe Installation

December 2-4, 10-4:30 pm

Caroline Kopp, c. 1991 CAS

Shane Stevens carves a Caroline Islands canoe in Wattis Hall.

Earlier this year, many Academy members and visitors watched as artist-in-residence, Shane Stevens, carved a Caroline Islands dugout canoe to replace the one currently on display in Wattis Hall and on loan to us from another museum. During the summer months, Stevens has continued working on the canoe and its component parts, allowing the wood to dry slowly to avoid any cracking. From December 2nd through 4th, he will return to the Academy to assemble the completed Micronesian canoe and its outrigger and other parts, and then it will be permanently installed in the Caroline Islands diorama. Visitors may watch Stevens at work and learn about dugout canoes daily from 10 am to 4:30 pm in Wattis Hall.

Free First Wednesday

Celebrate the holiday with an international flair at this month's Free First Wednesday program. From 5–8 pm enjoy the following activities: a light supper at the Holiday Cafe with music by the San Francisco Girls Chorus; hands on art activities for children and adults featuring Chinese painting and calligraphy with Lam-Po Leong from the Chinese Culture Center; and stop by the Discovery Room and the Biodiversity Resource Center. At 7 pm there will be an informal presentation of Jewish holidays from the Judah Magnes Museum at the Science in Action booth. These programs are funded by a generous grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

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Lecture and Booksigning

Peter Gold: "The Ritual Circle"

Thursday, Jan. 30, 7:30 pm

Rituals are as varied and rich as the cultures of humankind. Yet they speak of common experiences and shared transitions that transcend these intrinsic cultural differences.

Join anthropologist and author, Peter Gold for an illuminating initiation into several of humanity's most vivid and vital ritual events. Drawing upon years of experience among spiritually-oriented cultures on three continents, and utilizing an extensive archive of slides and on-location sound recordings, Peter Gold paints a portrait of the rituals and sacred ways of Hopi, Navajo, Apache and Pueblo Indians of the American Southwest; Nahua (Aztec) Indians of Mexico; Yupik Eskimo shaman-artists of Alaska; and the lamas, monks and lay Buddhists of Tibet.

His many books will be available in the Academy Store for signing after the program. Tickets are $5 for members and $7 for non-members. Please use the coupon below to order your tickets. For information on this lecture and others, call 750-7128.

Lecture and Booksigning

Leonard Shlain: "Still-Lifes & Space-Time"

February 5, 7:30 pm

Dr. Leonard Shlain has been a medical surgeon for the last 27 years and for the past 10 years has been lecturing widely on the connection between art and science. The enthusiastic response to his talks led Dr. Shlain to write *ART & PHYSICS: Parallel Visions in Space, Time, and Light.*

In this provocative book, Dr. Shlain proposes that the revolutionary artist introduces the world to a new way of seeing using image and metaphor. This vision is usually so radical that the public is repelled by it. Later, visionary physicists, without necessarily being influenced by the prior art, perceive a new way to think about the world and express this view in the condensed language of number and equation. If, however, the image of the artist is superimposed upon the equations of the physicist, there is a striking fit.

Dr. Shlain's book will be available at the Academy Store for signing after the program. Tickets are $5 for members and $7 for non-members. Please use the coupon below to order tickets. Call 750-7128 for lecture information.

Academy Travel

Explore the Unspoiled Caribbean!

Dominica Natural History with Dr. Kenneth Warheit,

March 4-12, 1992

The beautiful island of Dominica is so unspoiled that if Christopher Columbus were to return to the Caribbean today, this would be the only island he'd still recognize! From our comfortable hotels, we will explore the well-planned walking trails that provide access into the island's lush interior. Our classrooms for learning about island tropical ecology will include rain forest, rivers with cascading waterfalls, mangrove swamps, thickets of great bamboo and stands of giant gommier trees. There have been more than 162 species of birds identified here, including the spectacular Sisserou, the largest parrot in the Caribbean. Our tour will include a vist to the Carib Indian Reserve, whose population of 3,000 is the world's last remnant community. We also will swim and snorkel among beautiful coral formations, tropical fish and sponges along the coast. Sailing offshore, we hope to sight whales which are frequently seen this time of year. Join us in this tropical island adventure. Call 750-7222 to reserve your place.

STILL SPACE ON OUR BAJA CAMPING, SAILING AND WHALE-WATCHING TRIP IN MAGDALENA BAY. FEBRUARY 18. $1,190.

Ticket Order Form

Peter Gold — January 30, 7:30 pm

Leonard Shlain — Feburary 5, 7:30 pm

_____ $5 members _____ $7 non-members

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

Visa or Mastercard # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please send charge information or a check payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
The Special Programs Office
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

Requests will not be processed without separate checks.

CELEBRATING SPRING

FOODS & FESTIVALS OF THE SEASON OF RENEWAL

March 14, 1992
9:00 am to 7 pm

Spring is celebrated throughout the world as the season of rebirth and renewal. We rejoice in the end of winter with special foods, symbols, songs and festivities. Join us at the Academy on Saturday, March 14, 1992, from 9 am to 7 pm for a full-day symposium that explores the history, development and diversity of spring celebrations. Co-sponsored by the California Academy of Sciences' Anthropology Department and the Rietz Food Technology Foundation, the day offers a wonderful opportunity to discover the importance of celebration in human societies. In *Celebrating Spring: Foods and Festivals of the Season of Renewal,* the Academy brings together internationally known anthropologists, historians, food writers, chefs, restaurateurs, and event designers to examine the significance of springtime foods that goes far beyond simple nutrition.

During the day, we will discuss the gathering of wild foods and herbs in the rural South; why champagne is the ultimate beverage of celebration; and how technology has changed our seasonal eating patterns.

The symposium will explore three exciting and distinctly different cultural expressions of springtime celebrations. We will hear about the feast foods and fast foods of pan-African cultures from Brazil, to the Caribbean and New Orleans. We will find out about the most ancient Persian rites of Spring and of Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. A concluding panel of food writers, restaurateurs, and event designers will discuss some of their refreshing and provocative ideas about celebration in our contemporary culture.

Following the symposium, the party begins! Sample springtime cuisine of this area's most accomplished chefs and taste the unique flavors of spring festival foods from around the world. Demonstrations of special springtime crafts, performances, exhibits and entertainmnet round out the day. Join us!

Ticket Order Form

Celebrating Spring, March 14, 9am-7pm

_____ $45 members _____ $55 non-members' tickets

_____ $9.25 regular box lunch _____ $9.25 vegetarian box lunch
(Box lunches must be ordered in advance)

_____ Total amount enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

Please send this form with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
Celebrating Spring
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

Participation is limited to 400 persons. For more information call 750-7166.

Lecture Series

Exploring the Universe

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7:30 pm

An unusually fanciful interpretation of the aurora *of medieval days*

The *aurora borealis,* or "northern lights," is the dramatic and visible manifestation of the interaction between the Earth's magnetic field and charged particles streaming from the sun. (The Sun produces 10 million megawatts of power!) This spectacle of rapidly moving lights has inspired both legends and scientific explanations since before the Roman Empire. Only since the advent of rockets and satellites have researchers had the tools necessary to understand this phenomenon.

On Tuesday, December 17, Dr. Cynthia Cattell, Senior Fellow at the Space Sciences Lab, UC Berkeley, will present "Aurora Borealis: On Earth and the Outer Planets." The program begins at 7:30 in the Planetarium. Tickets are $2 each and are available at the door. For ticket information, please call the "Universe" line at 750-7129.

Sky Show "A Christmas Star"

The Morrison Planetarium will be closed from December 2-5. On December 6th it will reopen with the Holiday show, "A Christmas Star," which examines the story of The Star of Bethlehem. Shows will be at 2pm on weekdays, and at 1, 2, 3, & 4 pm on weekends. From Dec. 26-31 shows will be at 2 & 3:30. The Planetarium will be closed on Christmas Day. Call 750-7141 for information.

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Calendar of Events

December

1 Run to the Far Side VII, 8:30 am start
2 Members' Winter Festival, 6-9 pm
2-4 Canoe Installation, 10-4:30 pm
4 Free First Wednesday
6 "A Christmas Star" opens in the Planetarium
7 Traditional Arts, 1 pm
11 Members' Meetings, 2 & 7:30 pm
12 Members' Meetings, 7:30 pm
14 Traditional Arts, 1 pm
15 Young Audiences, 1pm
17 "Universe" series, 7:30 pm

January

15 Lecture, "The Improbable Nature of Life's History," 7:30 pm
30 Lecture, "The Ritual Circle," 7:30 pm

February

5 Lecture, "Still-Lifes & Space-Time," 7:30 pm

The Academy Store

The Academy Store has opened a NEW BOOKSTORE in Cowell Hall. It features a great selection of adult books as well as a wonderful variety of children's books. The gift store is still located across from the Auditorium and both stores are filled with treasures for Holiday giving!